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FOREIGN NEWS ON FRUIT

European apple and pear crop and market prospects 1/

Summary

The 1935 European fruit growing season has been marred by repeated periods of unfavorable weather until now apple and pear crops, which promised generally to be good, or above average, a few weeks back, are on the whole expected to be inferior to 1934 in size and quality. Only Yugoslavia and the Scandinavian countries expect larger crops than last year and of these only the former is a surplus producer. It appears that those countries which import fruit to supplement domestic production will find some difficulty in obtaining adequate quantities from nearby exporting countries. Consequently a favorable market for North American fruit is indicated. On the other hand, trade restrictions, in some countries at least, will seriously hamper the flow of imports and offset to a considerable degree the favorable supply situation.

In the United Kingdom, domestic fruit supplies will be much under those of a year ago as the crop of apples and pears in England and Wales was severely frosted in May. The French crop also promises to be small. Following a large outturn in 1934, the set this year in France was relatively light over the whole country. Frost damage in some areas, together with severe insect attacks further reduced the crop, which is now expected to be less than one-half of 1934. In recent weeks the weather has been hot and rain lacking which is resulting in small sizes. Much the same condition prevails in Italy, although insect injury is much less severe in most regions than in France.

Spring and early summer prospects were much better in central and northern Europe than in the south, but deterioration has been rather general in central Europe in recent weeks. The causes for the poorer outlook at present are largely due to unfavorable weather conditions that have prevailed during most of the growing season to date. The bloom was generally reported good this year and while cool and even freezing temperatures were recorded around blossom time, not much damage was caused directly by this source. However, the fruit buds were weakened and much rainy weather during this season also prevented a good pollination. Then, dry hot weather came during the latter part of June and has continued for many weeks, even approaching drought proportions in several districts. The fall of apples and pears has been quite heavy, especially with much windy weather in certain areas. A severe storm swept over northeastern

1/ Mailed from Paris, August 19, by L. D. Mallory, Assistant Agricultural Attache. Contains information gathered by the Paris, London, Berlin and Belgrade offices of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Switzerland and part of the Bodensee area in late July and considerable damage resulted in many districts in that region. Though prospects vary considerably from district to district as is generally the case for fruit, it now appears that below average harvests are in prospect in Czechoslovakia and Austria, and average or slightly below average crops at present in Germany, Switzerland and Poland. In Belgium and Holland prospects appear to have deteriorated noticeably the last few weeks and some trade reports now indicate somewhat below average harvests, while others are still hopeful of at least an average crop. In Scandinavian countries, however, rather good crops are still expected, especially in Norway. In general, cider fruit, also early and cooking apples appear more abundant than dessert varieties in Scandinavia.

The Danube Basin countries all have lighter crops of apples than in 1934, and with the exception of Yugoslavia, surpluses for export will be under last season. Yugoslavia however is by far the most important producer in the Danube, and while there was some damage from May frosts, which was confined largely to the summer and early fall varieties the types for export will be in good supply. This situation together with an improved outlook for placing fruit abroad will result in much heavier exports than last season. At the present time it is predicted that around 27,600 short tons (1,150,000 bushels) of apples will be exported from the coming crop in Yugoslavia which may be compared with only 7,300 short tons (300,000 bushels) exported last season. Yugoslavia is dominant in apple production in this part of Europe and the increased forecast in exports will more than offset decreases in the other countries of the Danube.

Quality in Europe is generally poorer this season than last. Much of this is due to unfavorable weather and generally poorer cultural care is reported to have been given on account of the probable small outturn. Insect damage is more general and in France will affect a large percentage of the fruit. This will not prevent its marketing in many instances, but does reduce storage life considerably. On the whole, available supplies should be consumed much earlier this season. The extended period of dry weather has retarded development, particularly of late varieties, and sizes are generally smaller. Damage from other factors has been less widespread. Hail has been recorded in several districts, noticeably in parts of southern Holland, a few valleys around the Bodensee in Germany and in some parts of northwestern Switzerland, where recent storms occurred, as well as in Styria in Austria.

Potential demand for American apples and pears is large this year, but export possibilities have not increased in the same proportion because of trade restrictions in important consuming countries. The United Kingdom should take increased quantities, for while the Canadian crop is slightly above last year and a bit more fruit may be exported, total supplies other than from the United States should be less. In addition economic conditions are believed to be as good or better than last year, and with reasonable prices for export a substantial quantity should be moved. The fruit deficit in France should require heavy importations from abroad. The level of demand will likely be less because of depressed economic conditions, and the policy of decreasing the cost of living, but this should be offset by lighter supplies and higher prices of Spanish

oranges, the chief competing fruit. License taxes have been maintained at the lower level, permitting lower prices on the French market. If demand is reasonably well-maintained it is thought that at least a third more American apples and pears could be sold in France during 1935-36 than during 1934-35 if quotas are increased.

A considerable deficit also exists in Germany, but imports will be limited almost entirely to that quantity which can be arranged for under special trade compensation deals. There is apparently a disposition on the part of Germany to draw its fruit supplies as much as possible from nearby countries, mainly in central Europe. A number of clearing arrangements exist which facilitate this trade. With small crops generally, prices for such fruit in Germany will be higher and quantities purchasable with a given amount of foreign exchange will be less. In spite of the demand which this should create for American fruit at reasonable prices, it is not expected that much business can be done unless special arrangements are made.

Sales to Belgium have been facilitated on the one hand by a shorter crop and the provisions of the Trade Agreement, but on the other they have been hindered by the devaluation of Belgium currency. Present exchange rates increase prices to the consumer considerably and total imports are problematical.

In spite of trade difficulties, possibilities of sales to Europe are better than last year, for supplies are definitely short. In addition, restrictions may eventually be less onerous. In France, for example, the new policy of a lower cost of living may allow increased foreign supplies to enter in order to prevent too great an advance in the price level.

IMPORTING COUNTRIES

United Kingdom and Ireland

Crop prospects

The crop of both apples and pears will be small in the United Kingdom as a result of extensive damage from spring frosts and insect injury during the early growing season. The important fruit-producing countries show condition to be one-third to one-half of last year. The county of Kent, contiguous to London, is the most important, and has the best prospects this year, but is under that of last season. Whereas last season condition figures indicated a crop from "good" to "very good", they denote this year a crop from "very bad" to "poor".

Fair crops of apples are expected in Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State.

Pear production in England and Wales will be light, probably no more than one-half of last year. In northern Ireland and the Irish Free State the pear harvest promises to be small, according to trade sources.

Market prospects

Takings of apples and pears from the United States by the United Kingdom depend mainly upon the volume of home-grown supplies, the quantities available from the Dominions and the price of fruit. As pointed out above, the domestic crop will be short and much under last year. Local supplies should therefore be consumed rather early in the season, allowing a relatively long period for the heavy use of overseas fruit. Australian and New Zealand arrivals have ceased. What quantity is being held in England for subsequent disposal is not known, but the amount is not thought to be large. The apple crop in Canada is slightly above last year and exports to the United Kingdom are expected to be a little larger than during 1934-35. This Canadian competition will be extensive, but in view of the reduced domestic supply a substantially larger quantity of American fruit should find a place in the United Kingdom.

France

Crop prospects

The crop of apples and pears in France is considerably under that of last year and somewhat below average. The 1934 harvest of dessert apples and pears was very large, preliminary estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture placing it at 434,000 short tons (19,100,000 bushels), as compared with the 1930-31 - 1934-35 average of 250,000 tons (11,000,000 bushels). Fruit for perry and cider was also very plentiful. Following the large harvest of last season, a smaller crop was to be expected, but various hazards further reduced prospects. Spring frosts did some damage, particularly in central France; insect attacks have been heavy and the dryness of recent growing weather has made for small sizes. In total, it would appear that apples will be less than one-half of last year, possibly 40 percent with prospects for pears somewhat better.

There is a considerable variation by regions. In the Pyrenees the crop is considered fully average; in the central department of the Auvergne it is, according to present indications, only one-half of average and very much under last season. Reports are conflicting concerning the Savoie, but a light production is in prospect. In Alsace-Lorraine, damage was lighter and a tonnage fully 60 percent of 1934 is expected. Northern France has an average production but quality is expected to be very poor. Lower Brittany will probably turn out no more than one-half of last season. There will be a shortage of the preferred varieties such as Canada Reinettes, for which the Auvergne is one of the principal regions, and the Savoie also important. Quality is reported under a year ago, the percentage of wormy fruit being very high.

Prospects for pears are generally better than for apples. For Bartletts (Williams) the principal areas are about Lyon in the Rhone Valley, the Paris Basin, and the Loire valley. At Lyon a crop about 60 percent of last year's is expected, with first pickings now being received at Paris. In the Loire valley conditions are poorer, frost damage having been more general and only one-half of last year's crop is in prospect. In the Paris Basin, while there has been some drop recently on account of worms, the crop is better than most districts and 60 to 70 percent of 1934 is looked for. In total, Bartletts should be about 60 percent of last year's crop,

which constitutes a fairly good supply. Late winter pears, such as the Passe Cresanne, are better than Bartletts and some 75 percent of last season's crop is expected. In addition, there are a number of miscellaneous varieties such as Bonne Louise, Clairgean, Anjou and Hardy, which are grown in widely scattered areas as well as in small quantities in home gardens. While it is very difficult to form an opinion on these, it appears that about 75 percent of last year's crop may be harvested. Cooking pears such as the Curé are quite good at 80 percent of last year but sizes are small.

Market prospects

A very good market for imported fruit should develop during the present season. Domestic supplies will be short, necessitating imports. Available supplies in other European countries are small, providing an excellent opportunity for overseas shippers. The quality of French fruit this year is low, which reduces its storage life and it is expected that local supplies will be practically off the market by the end of December. A second factor of considerable importance is the level of license taxes. In previous years a rate of 60 francs per quintal ($0.90 a bushel) for apples and 90 ($1.35 a bushel) for pears was supplied during the fall months, being reduced during the winter and spring to 40 and 60 francs ($0.48 and $0.90 a bushel) respectively. So far this season the higher rates have not been instituted, which will permit American fruit to be sold at lower prices and cause it to move more rapidly into consumption. Another factor of considerable importance is the volume of competing fruits. In recent years, imports of Spanish oranges have been very large and during the winter and spring months formed the basis of the fruit diet, having a considerable influence on the price level for other fruits. For the coming season a smaller and later orange crop is indicated in Spain, which will induce consumption of apples and pears. In addition, the higher schedules of duties under the general tariff is now being applied to products from Spain, and, until some agreement is reached between the two countries, the higher rates will continue to apply. This is also true of bananas from the Canary Islands. It appears that considerably larger quantities of American apples and pears could be sold in France during 1935-36 than has been true of past seasons, if quotas are granted for their importation. While economic conditions in France have if anything not improved, and buying power will be restricted on account of recent measures, it is estimated that fully a third more fruit than last season could be moved into consumption, possibly some 450,000 quintals, or about 50,000 short tons (2,100,000 bushels). The total of quotas granted during 1934-35 were some 306,000 quintals (1,400,000 bushels). It is apparent that an enlarged quota position is necessary if the market is to be fully utilized.

Belgium

Crop prospects

An abundant fruit harvest is not expected again in Belgium this year. Though fairly good apple crops are noted in Hainot, Antwerp and Liege districts, these are rather small fruit sections, and in most of the remaining producing areas reduced crops are in prospect. For the country as a whole, an apple crop around average or slightly below now appears in prospect.

Pear prospects are somewhat better than apples, though a large crop is not indicated. There has been some deterioration in recent weeks from continued dry weather, particularly on the lighter sandy soils.

Market situation

The potential import demand for apples this year should be somewhat improved over last year, but the present market situation has been seriously affected by the recent devaluation of the Belgian Franc. This makes American and other imported fruit considerably higher in price and with the rather cheap living standard in Belgium it may tend to restrict imports somewhat. This would be particularly true if prices of foreign apples are higher this year than last. Likewise if certain good foreign fruits are available at lower prices than American fruit they may be expected to be in relatively better demand.

Holland

Apple prospects have deteriorated in recent weeks. Instead of a good apple crop a more average crop is now indicated. The drop has been quite heavy and the fruit set rather irregular. The Boskoop variety has set very well generally, whereas the Belleflower prospects are not so favorable. Pear crop prospects still remain about average, though some varieties and districts have been adversely affected by unfavorable weather, frosts, hail, lack of rain and winds.

Germany

Crop prospects

An average to slightly below average crop of apples and particularly pears is now expected for Germany as a whole; both the quality and quantity will be much below that harvested a year ago. Further deterioration is expected, especially for late fruit, if the droughty weather continues much longer. The situation varies considerably from district to district - many districts now have a very small crop, while others including most of the important Germany Lake Constance region still have fairly good harvests in prospect. In general, early apples appear relatively better than many of the later varieties. Among the important fruit areas in Germany are the Hamburg area, Lake Constance, the Mainz-Frankfort districts to Stuttgart and northern Bavaria. In the total tree count, however, road-side and small garden orchards also make up a sizable part. In the Hamburg district a fairly satisfactory harvest appears to be in prospect. The Frankfort area on the other hand has a very much reduced crop of both apples and pears, especially the latter, and in the Heidelberg, Mannheim, Stuttgart districts mostly about average conditions prevail. For the German Lake Constance region an average crop is expected from present conditions, though the total harvest will be well under last year's almost full crop in this area. Small and poor quality crops will be harvested around the upper end of the Lake (Radolfzell-Bodman, Ludwigshafen districts), but fairly good crops were observed in most valleys around the lower half of the Lake (Markdorf, Lindau, etc.). Small apple crops are expected in northern Bavaria and Saxony and Brandenburg and also small pear crops in most of these regions.

Weather conditions in practically all parts of Germany have not been very favorable for fruit this season and the present continued period of dry weather is making for further deterioration.

Market section

Higher prices for most fruits are already featuring the market situation in Germany. Several explanations are being offered in official quarters to attempt to justify somewhat higher prices, though in certain cases criticism has been directed at price increases. The real reason is the reduced supplies. The market reflects not only smaller supplies of German fruit, but smaller supplies of foreign fruits, which have regularly supplied German markets in years past. Though Germany has clearing arrangements with several European countries permitting relatively free fruit imports, particularly soft fruits, the reduced supplies this season in several of the outside countries is beginning to be felt. As prices increase in the country of origin, the amount of exchange available for fruit imports proves correspondingly less adequate and imports are thus restricted by higher prices. The following price table gives some evidence of the present situation with respect to German and certain foreign fruits this season as compared with last year.

FRUIT: Official wholesale quotations for the Berlin Central markets during the latter part of July 1/

Kind of fruit	1934		1935	
	RM. per DZ.	Dollars per 100 pounds	RM. per DZ.	Dollars per 100 pounds
Sour cherries	13-16	2.27 - 2.79	30-33	5.51 - 6.06
Pears, German	8-20	1.40 - 3.49	15-24	2.75 - 4.40
Pears, Italian	12-28	2.10 - 4.89	28-43	5.14 - 7.89
Apples, Hungarian	13-16	2.38 - 2.79	20-26	3.67 - 4.77
Blueberries	25-28	4.37 - 4.89	31-36	5.69 - 6.61
Gooseberries	8-13	1.40 - 2.27	21-30	3.85 - 5.51
Plums, Italian	20-35	3.49 - 6.11	30-50	5.51 - 9.18
Peaches, German	12-26	2.10 - 4.54	30-48	5.51 - 8.81
Peaches, Italian	17-30	2.97 - 5.24	26-40	4.77 - 7.34
Lemons	10-13	1.75 - 2.27	23-28	4.22 - 5.14

1/ As the fruit season this year is a little later than last year it is difficult to obtain anything like an exact measurement of the situation from these prices. The spread may be slightly reduced as the season progresses, but the quoted prices are very indicative of a materially changed situation this year.

On July 12, 1935, an agreement was reported concluded between the Czechoslovak and German governments, whereby a contingent for Czechoslovak exports of fruits to Germany was established in the amount of 400,000 German marks (3,600,000 crowns or $162,000). From this sum, however, it is said some claims frozen in Germany for last year's exports of fruit so that country will be deducted, so that roughly only two thirds of this amount will be available for fruit purchases this season. The contingent covers ordinary fruits of all kinds.

The outlook for imports of American apples and pears this season into Germany is dependent almost entirely upon special trade compensation deals that may be arranged. The potential demand appears good this year due not only to smaller harvests in Germany and neighboring countries, but also to increased interest in fruits. This results in part from a trend toward increased utilization of fruit and vegetables and partly at the present time from the use of fruits as a substitute for certain other food products, which have become quite scarce and high-priced in Germany. During the last season when a large domestic fruit crop was harvested, important quantities of lower grade fruit were utilized in the making of marmalade and spreads which were substituted to a considerable extent for expensive lard and other fats. It likewise appears that a large percentage of the fairly good apple and pear crops in the Lake Constance area, part of the Baden and Wuerttemberg districts, are for so-called cider fruit. These varieties are not for table or eating use, but are used exclusively for making of drinks. It may thus be seen that actual fresh fruit needs are further potentially increased. Fruits, however, are still considered more of a luxury than a necessity in Germany, so that imports will probably be made at very much reduced levels this season, unless special trade arrangements are concluded.

Scandinavian countries

Crop prospects in the Scandinavian countries appear relatively more favorable this year than in central Europe. Production is not large, of course, in any of the countries, but fairly good to good crops for those countries are now indicated. This is particularly true of Norway, where both apples and pears promise a good crop. In Denmark reports indicate that the apple crop will be equal to and probably larger than that of a year ago. Though no recent reports have been received from Sweden, good fruit crops were in prospect in that country early in the season.

EXPORTING COUNTRIES

Czechoslovakia

Below average harvests of apples and pears are expected for most districts in Czechoslovakia. Soft fruit crops were very much reduced this season. Spring frosts together with unfavorable weather at blossom time and much hot dry weather in recent weeks has made for the small crops this season. In the important Bohemia and Moravia apple districts, the crop is now reported smaller and much below a year ago, and generally below average. Some valleys especially in Moravia, however, still report fairly good prospects for apples and plums. The early pear crop in Czechoslovakia is placed by some observers at only around 25 percent of last year, while late pears are said to be even poorer. Considering all fruit, a reduction of around 75 percent from last year's good harvest is indicated in trade estimates, though apples will show a smaller reduction than this figure. It is believed, however, that these trade figures represent maximum estimates of the reduction and that unless weather continues very unfavorable the crops may not be quite so small as these figures would indicate.

AUSTRIA

Crop prospects

Recent information from the important Styria district indicates very much reduced crops of apples and pears this season. The fruit set was decreased by unfavorable weather, and then a rather heavy drop has occurred during the long period of droughty weather. The outlook now is for a harvest considerably below last year, especially for early fall varieties. Some private estimates indicate a crop of early apples of only around 10 percent of last year. Winter varieties, of which the popular Maschanzker has a relatively good set, an outturn of possibly 40 percent of a year ago. The pear crop in this district this season is very small. Some Austrian districts, however, have fairly good crops, especially of cider fruit, but the total should show a marked reduction from a year ago. The fruit harvest is expected to be somewhat delayed from last year, when it was early.

Prices

Deciduous fruit price levels in Vienna in general are roughly 50 percent higher than at this time last year while apples and pears are ruling at levels almost twice as high as those of last season. Domestic summer apples sold from 3.4¢ to 5.1¢ a pound against 1.7¢ to 3.4¢ at this time last year and Hungarian apples at 5.1¢ to 8.5¢ a pound compared with 1.7¢ to 5.1¢ at this time in 1934. Domestic summer pears made 5.1¢ to 6.0¢ as contrasted with 2.1¢ to 3.8¢ at this time last year.

Switzerland

Dryness and storms have deteriorated crop prospects recently so that for the country as a whole only about one half of a full crop of apples, pears and plums can now be expected. This represents reductions from last year's good crops of apples and pears of at least one third. The important Berne district is below average and though the important Swiss Lake Constance region may be considered fairly good, a large share of this production is cider fruit. Some severe storms have struck Switzerland this summer and the one of July 20, which crossed over part of the Zürich-Constance region was almost of hurricane proportions. In some sections a large number of the trees were uprooted or had large branches broken off. Many apples of course were blown off and others were damaged by hail which came with the wind in a few districts.

Exports of dessert apples from the southern Canton of Valais will be about one half of the movement of last season. This region, consisting of a narrow valley along the Rhone river, produces high quality fruit and for the past two years regulations have been in force specifying minimum grades for export. Much of the production is of Canada Reinettes together with some white winter Colvilles, which are marketed in Switzerland, France and to a small extent in Italy. Severe frosts at the time of flowering reduced the crop to the point where only about 50 to 60 percent of last year will be available. Williams (Bartlett) pears are also reduced in about the same proportion.

Italy

Tree fruit production in Italy is small this year on account of damage during the early season and dryness during the growing period. Apples and pears will be short in northern Italy but in fairly good supply in the south. The poorest crop is in the Alto Adige about Bolzano (formerly Tyrol) where about a third of last year's outturn is expected. While there was a fair set of apples, the dry spring and summer resulted in small sizes. Quality is not of the best due to some disease damage and spray burn. In the area about Trento, the crop appears a bit better but will be short and about 50 percent of last year. In the less important areas about Bologna and in the Piedmont around Cuneo, the crop is also short. Southern Italy will have a fairly good outturn and expects to export increased quantities to central Europe.

In considering Italian apple and pear exports to other European countries in relation to competition with American exports, a division must be made as to the quality and type of fruit. The better quality originates in the former Tyrol, yellow varieties such asCanada Reinette and White Winter Colville going to France and Switzerland, and the red varieties such as Montovara, as well as low grade fruit for cider and spreads to Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria. Exports from the Piedmont move to central Europe, but consist of lower grade dessert fruit and cider stock. From the Naples area quality is not high, the Anurche being about the only variety for table use, while a considerable amount of low-grade fruit is also sent for cider and manufacture. There has been a decided increase in raw fruit consumption in Italy in recent years. Shipments are now made regularly from Bolzano and Trento to the large Italian cities such as Milan.

In considering the year as a whole, it would appear that exports will be very restricted in spite of high prices prevailing. The crop is short, the better class of competitive varieties is particularly short and local demand must be met. The fine yellow apples are preferred only in Switzerland and France, and quota restrictions in the latter country restrict trade. The shortage of yellow varieties in the Valais should create an active demand in Switzerland for this class of Italian fruit. Thus the major portion of Italian exports this season will not be of a high class and much less competitive than last season to American fruit in central Europe. Prices are high. Early Gravensteins from Bolzano sold for export to Germany at double the prices ruling last year.

Pears are also short. Germany normally takes a very large portion of all pear exports but a fair quantity of Williams is usually sent to the early market in England and northern Europe. Supplies for all these markets will be less. Very early shipments such as those of the small Muscatello pear brought two to three times the price of last year.

Yugoslavia

According to estimates of the Yugoslav Chamber of Commerce, the 1935 apple crop will be 16.4 percent below normal. This indicates a harvest of about 123,000 short tons (5,100,000 bushels) compared with 136,000 (5,600,000 bushels) in 1934 and an average of 147,000 (6,100,000

than last year. The exportable surplus will not be decreased as indicated by the decline in total crop. Much of the damage was from May frosts which hit the low-lying orchards of the river valleys in the northwestern growing region. Reports from this region indicate the crop to be about 25 percent of a normal production. The varieties which suffered are almost entirely early ones and throughout the Kingdom the crop of fall and winter apples promises well. Export types are therefore in quite good supply.

A much better market abroad is anticipated by Yugoslav exporters this year due to short supplies in Central Europe. According to the Belgrade office of the Foreign Agricultural Service, exports may approximate 27,600 short tons (1,150,000 bushels) compared with 7,300 tons (300,000 bushels) from the 1934 crop and an average of 33,500 tons (1,400,000 bushels) for the period 1929-1934. While arrangements for the various quota and clearing agreements have not as yet been finally settled, it would appear that most of the exportable surplus will find a market abroad.

Rumania

The 1935 apple production in Rumania is now estimated to be only about 40 percent of last year's large harvest. In the growing region of the Old Kingdom the crop will be almost normal, but in the more important producing districts of Transylvania and Bessarabia only about 30 percent of last year's crop is expected. Taken as a whole, the exportable surplus may not run over 4,000 short tons (166,000 bushels) as compared with 10,300 tons (430,000 bushels) exported from October 1, 1934 to June 30, 1935 and 6,700 tons (280,000 bushels) for the five-year average.

Bulgaria

Apple production in Bulgaria is rather insignificant and while new plantations of better varieties are expected to increase the output considerably in a few years, the country is not yet much of a factor in export trade. This year's crop will be a little under last year's but above average.

Hungary

This country is likewise not of much importance either from a production or from a trade standpoint, exporting small quantities of its own crop and carrying on some repacking and exporting trade of imported fruit. This year's crop is indicated to be below average with a possible small export surplus.

Danube Basin

Pears

The production of pears in the Danube Basin is small and has little bearing on the European fruit trade. Total exports from the Danube countries are about 1,800 short tons (75,000 bushels) annually but a portion of the trade is between countries within the Basin. When this local trade is deducted it appears that exports to other countries of Europe are about 1,000 short tons (42,000 bu.). The crop this season is expected to be a little less than last year.

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